

Received & Inspected

AUG 20 2014

FCC Mail Room

**Independence** 

Daniel J. Hilferty  
Office of the President

August 12, 2014

Tom Wheeler  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

***Re: MB Docket No. 14-57***

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

Independence Blue Cross, one of America's leading health insurers, strongly supports the proposed transaction between Comcast Corporation and Time Warner Cable, Inc. As a fellow corporate citizen of Philadelphia with a 20 year relationship with Comcast, Independence is in a unique position to tell the Commission about Comcast's unrivalled commitment to public service. As president and CEO of a company that serves nearly 9 million people nationwide, I think every day about ways in which we can improve the health and lives of those who live in the communities that we serve. Through our decades-long relationship with Comcast, I know that this is of paramount importance to them as well. Permitting this transaction would allow Comcast to help even more people in more communities across our nation.

**Leading in the Community**

At Independence we care deeply about ensuring that families in low-income communities have access to health coverage and other critical services. This is a value that we share with Comcast. For example, Comcast has dedicated itself to providing internet access to low-income families across America through its Internet Essentials program. In today's economy, having internet access at home is critical. This program brings broadband internet into the homes of over one million low-income Americans, creating greater access to education and employment. The proposed transaction will allow Comcast to deliver this service to more of our citizens, whose future success in our society is partially dependent on reliable internet access in the home.

**Championing Corporate Social Responsibility**

Comcast is an integral part of our city and our region, partnering with numerous charitable organizations that provide support and assistance to those in need. In fact, the Comcast Foundation has contributed over \$145 million to philanthropic causes just in the last 15 years alone. I am confident that if the Commission approves the proposed transaction, Comcast's commitment to public service and philanthropy will only continue to grow, allowing them to reach even more people in more communities all across America.

# Independence

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## **Promoting Diversity**

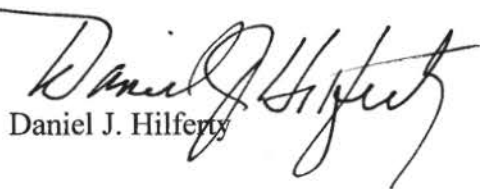
Another shared value between Independence and Comcast is our commitment to diversity, ensuring that the voices of people from a wide variety of backgrounds and cultures are heard throughout America. Comcast celebrates diversity through its hiring practices and numerous charitable efforts, but approval of the proposed transaction with Time Warner will allow it to do so much more. Comcast and Time Warner have committed to supporting ten new cable channels, most minority-owned, giving consumers even more options for enjoying multicultural content that is truly representative of America.

## **Forging Innovation that Benefits Us All**

Like Independence, Comcast has a passion for bold, industry-transforming innovation efforts. Comcast is constantly exploring new, groundbreaking technology that will bring its high-quality services to as many people in as many homes as possible, from urban centers to rural towns. With the promising technological developments in the health care sector, such as electronic medical records and increasing use of informatics, Independence looks forward to collaborating with Comcast, pairing our innovation efforts to fundamentally transform health care, increasing access and quality and lowering costs. Together with Time Warner, Comcast will be able to do even more, bringing new innovations to more Americans and creating a stronger, more reliable national broadband infrastructure that will benefit all of us.

The FCC must determine how the proposed transaction will contribute to the public interest. Independence has partnered with Comcast for over 20 years and we've seen first-hand their commitment to serving our community. Comcast is such a tremendous champion in Philadelphia and elsewhere that I felt compelled to tell you how strongly I support the company's vision. I urge the Commission to approve the proposed transaction.

Respectfully,



Daniel J. Hilferty